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ABSTRACT

These nine research briefs address various internal and external issues affecting Los Rios Community Colleges (California). Featured topics during 1999-2000 academic year include: joining the National Student Loan Clearinghouse to improve financial aid services, the decline of student transfers from Los Rios to California public universities, the projected population growth in the college district service area, new high school graduates and their enrollments in the Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD), a demographic profile of disabled students receiving campus support services, a demographic and outcomes profile of distance education students, the 1998-99 academic year profile of degrees and certificates awarded to LRCCD students, Student-Right-to-Know Program completion, and transfer rates. Data released by the California Postsecondary Education Commission for 1998-99 show that the number of student transfers from Los Rios to the CSU and UC declined for the fourth consecutive year. One of the strategies for consideration to improve the transfer picture is to assure that literature and academic requirements for student transfer are clearly written, up-to-date, and shared with every new high school graduate enrolling who has indicated transfer as a goal. Community colleges have control over local initiatives in support of student transfer. Establishing such initiatives may go far in reversing the transfer decline. Contains tables and graphs. (JA)

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Research Brief, 1999-2000

Los Rios Community College District

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LOS RIOS COLLEGES GO LIVE WITH THE NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN CLEARINGHOUSE

The National Student Loan Clearinghouse (NSLC) has taken over the responsibility for filing all required Financial Aid reports for American River College, Cosumnes River College and Sacramento City College beginning with the series related to the end of the Spring 1999 semester. Los Rios colleges join well over half of the California community colleges in utilizing Clearinghouse services.

What Is NSLC?

NSLC is an industry-sponsored consortium whose operating costs are underwritten by the member guarantors, and servicers of federal financial aid loans. The purpose of NSLC was to streamline what was a very fragmented and confusing enrollment verification process for colleges and universities, the U.S. Department of Education and the consortium members. Through the establishment of NSLC, colleges and universities report required information to *one* central entity, rather than to large numbers of agencies. NSLC then files *all* reports on behalf of member colleges. For the Los Rios colleges, files will be generated three times in the fall and spring semesters and once in the summer.

Why Join NSLC?

There are important benefits for Financial Aid Offices, for Students *and* for Institutional Research.

Benefits to Our Financial Aid Offices

- The number of reports to be filed is reduced substantially, thus freeing valuable staff time to assist students.
- Student default rates are reduced because lenders receive accurate, automated, frequent enrollment status updates.

Benefits to Our Students

- Students are able to obtain in-school deferments for loan repayment more promptly.
- Students avoid receiving inappropriate notification from lender collection agencies when they have re-enrolled in school and should be granted a deferment.

Benefits for Institutional Research from a New NSLC Service

- A new NSLC program allows colleges and universities to obtain an electronic file from the Clearinghouse that tracks the names and locations of institutions of higher education throughout the nation where student leavers have enrolled, provided that those institutions are also Clearinghouse members. Thus, colleges and universities can obtain the most comprehensive student transfer data available.
- An initiative undertaken by the Chancellor's Office for California Community Colleges to pay the cost of this new service will provide Los Rios colleges with comprehensive transfer data about *all* former students who were time students in Fall 1995. Files will be returned to the District in late Fall 1999 for further analysis.
- The college/university enrollments accounted for by NSLC: 91% of all enrollments in California, 100% of all private institutional enrollments in CA and 79% of all enrollments in the U.S. are reported to the Clearinghouse, as of April 30, 1999. This figure continues to grow nationally each month. Many California community colleges are now planning to join NSLC, primarily for this new benefit for better transfer data.

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A Los Rios Team Effort

Efforts on the part of college Financial Aid offices, college Admissions and Records offices and the district Institutional Research (IR) and Information Technology (IT) offices were initiated in January 1999 to make this possible. A special thanks go to IT Programmer, Cindy Crandall, for creating the flat file structure from the Eden System and to IR Senior Systems Analyst, Minh La, for completing calculations on the research side-of-the-house and uploading the final files to the Clearinghouse seven times each year.

*This **RESEARCH brief** was written by Judy Beach!er, Director of Institutional Research (IR), LRCCD. For more information, please contact IR Secretary, Chue Lo at (916) 568-3131 or by e-mail to **loc@mail.do.losrios.cc.ca.us**.*

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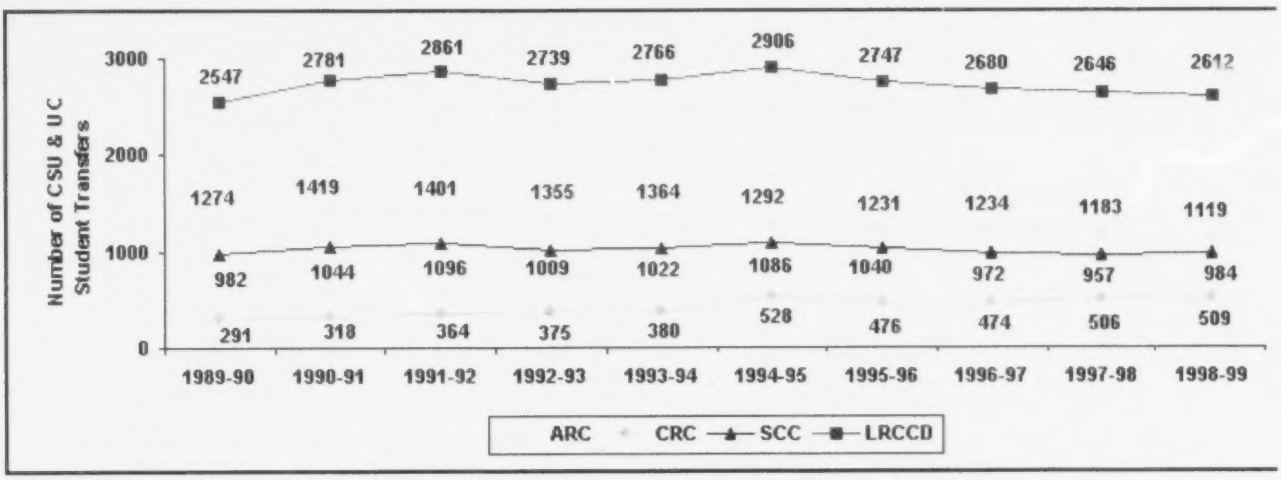
STUDENT TRANSFERS FROM LOS RIOS TO CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES DECLINE

Data released by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) for 1998-99 show that the number of student transfers from Los Rios to the CSU and UC declined for the fourth consecutive year.



Transfers to All Public Universities (CSU and UC, Combined) in 1998-99

- Cosumnes River College saw a slight increase in the number of student transfers from one-year earlier (0.6%)
- Sacramento City College's transfers increased at a larger 2.8%
- But American River College's decline of 5.4% left Los Rios with 1.3% fewer transfers than in 1997-98
- Statewide there was 1.1% fewer community college transfer students to CSU and UC

Larger Dip Was in Transfers to the UC in 1998-99

- SCC experienced an annual decrease of 3.3% in the number of UC transfers
- CRC experienced a 3.7% decrease
- ARC experienced a 11.5% decrease
- District-wide there was 7.0% fewer transfer students, while statewide figures remained almost the same, declining by 0.5%
- It is important to note that transfers to UC represent only 15% of all district-wide transfers and slightly more than 18%, statewide

District-wide Transfer Numbers to CSU Remain Unchanged in 1998-99 from 1997-98 Levels

- District-wide there was little change in the number of transfers to CSU in 1998-99 (a 0.2% decline), following

annual declines of 6.6% in 1995-96, 3.2% in 1996-97 and 1.2% in 1997-98

- SCC experienced a 4.3% increase
- CRC experienced a 1.1% increase
- ARC had 4.2% fewer transfer students going to CSU
- On a statewide basis, 1.2% fewer students transferred to CSU

Transfers to CSU, Sacramento, the Major Transfer Institution for Los Rios Colleges

- 79.5% of all Los Rios transfers to CSU attended CSU, Sacramento in 1998-99
- Transfers from CRC to CSU, Sacramento have been fairly stable, with a 3.6% increase from 1994-95 to 1998-99
- Transfers to CSU, Sacramento have declined from SCC by 12.4% over the five-year period; however, transfers from SCC increased by 2.4% in 1998-99 from one year earlier
- ARC saw a 5-year decline of 14.1%; transfers also declined annually -- by 4.0% from the 1997-98 level

Changing Number of Transfers to CSU, Sacramento from Nearby Colleges from 1994-95 to 1998-99

It is interesting to note that the number of transfer students from two community colleges in close proximity to Los Rios colleges has increased to all CSU campuses in general and to CSU, Sacramento more specifically, over this most recent five-year period:

- San Joaquin Delta transfers increased by: 12.2% to CSU, Sacramento and 10.8% to all CSU campuses
- Sierra College's transfers increased at even larger rates: by 16.3% to CSU, Sacramento and by 23.6% to all CSU campuses
- Yuba College has seen transfer students declining slightly during this time frame, but there was a 12.4% increase in transfers to CSU, Sacramento from 1997-98 to 1998-99
- These colleges in close proximity to LRCCD and to CSU, Sacramento; they may be more aggressively supporting transfer for their students through counseling, information dissemination and/or workshops in recent years, compared to the past

Why Are These Numbers Declining?

District-wide discussions have raised questions about the declining number of transfers:

- Do they represent smaller entering cohorts than in the past?
- Have policies at the CSU and UC changed the proportional balance between new high school graduates entering as freshman and transfer students?
- Have the several innovative projects developed by local high schools with CSU, Sacramento and UC, Davis to increase going-to-university rates directly from high school influenced the proportion of transfer and native

students to public universities?

- Have decisions by transfer prepared students to go to private institutions in California or to institutions that are out-of-state influenced these numbers?

Responding to the Decline

We have very little control over any of these possible influences on declining transfer numbers. However, as we see increasing transfer counts from other community colleges in close proximity both to Los Rios colleges and to our closest senior transfer institutions, these influences are questionable. Moreover, new high school graduates with transfer as their goal are enrolling in increasing numbers -- the new high school graduate cohort of 2,364 students district-wide in Fall 1994 grew by 42.0% to a Fall 1998 cohort of 3,357. With 53% of all new high school graduates planning to transfer who enrolled in Fall 1994 growing to 60% by Fall 1998, staff throughout the district may need to consider new strategies to help this growing cohort of students wishing to transfer.

Strategies for Consideration to Improve the Transfer Picture

- Assure that literature about academic requirements for student transfer is clearly and simply written, up-to-date and shared with every new high school graduate enrolling who has indicated transfer as a goal
- Personally contact each new high school graduate who enrolls with a goal to transfer, providing counseling, a thorough explanation of student transfer literature and an opportunity to develop their guaranteed Transfer Admissions Agreement
- Support the transfer function through *all* special student services offices -- Transfer, EOPS, DSPS, Matriculation and other offices
- Track all potential transfer students and continue to contact them individually about academic progress toward their goal
- Develop peer or mentoring workshops each year, bringing back previously enrolled students who have successfully transferred so they can share their experiences with and give advice to current students
- Determine which required transfer courses students struggle with the most, and establish peer tutoring to assure more successful completion
- When recruiting students at area high schools, assure that students are fully informed about transfer opportunities, the transfer process and the guaranteed Transfer Admissions Agreement
- Maintain strong working relationships in support of student transfer with admissions and transfer staff at our senior institutions, particularly CSU, Sacramento and UC, Davis, universities where many Los Rios students plan to go
- Sponsor senior institutional orientation workshops at the colleges (or centrally across the district), to give students an opportunity to learn more about college life on each UC and CSU campus

Community colleges do not have control over policy for admitting students to senior institutions. They do have control over local initiatives in support of student transfer. Establishing such initiatives may go far in reversing the transfer decline.

*This **RESEARCH brief** was written by Judy Beachler, Director of Institutional Research (IR), LRCCD. For more information, please contact IR Secretary, Chue Lo at (916) 568-3131 or by e-mail to **loc@mail.do.losrios.cc.ca.us**.*

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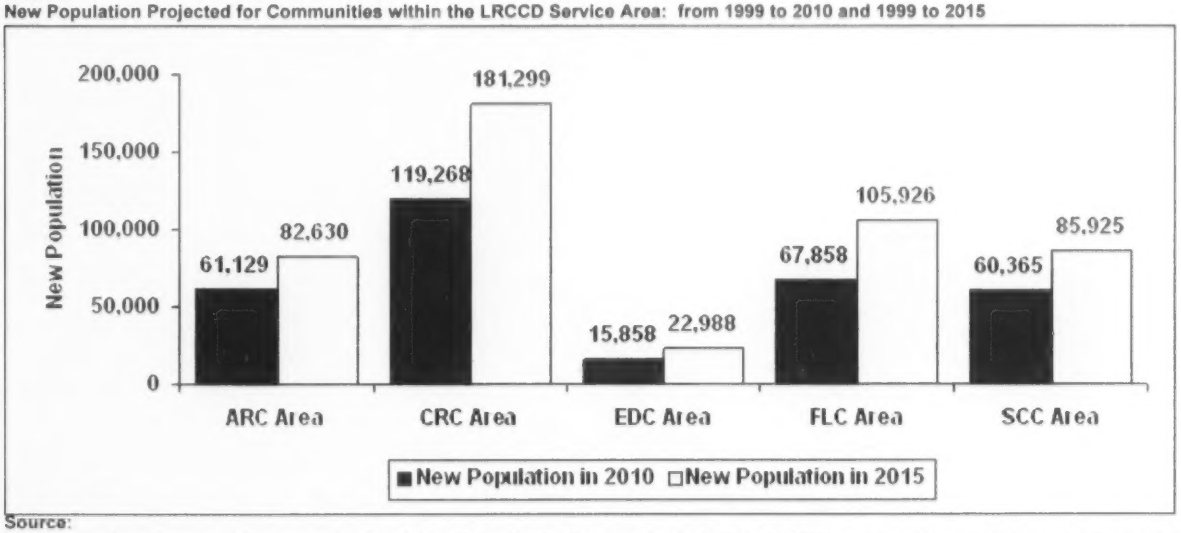
POPULATION GROWTH IN THE LRCCD SERVICE AREA: WHERE WILL IT OCCUR?

With a 1999 population of 1.71 million, Greater Sacramento has been among the fastest growing metropolitan area not just of California but of the entire U.S. And according to February 1999 figures released by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), this growth is projected to continue into the next century -- to 2.14 million by 2010 and to 2.34 million by 2015. Since Los Rios Community College District serves much of Greater Sacramento (all but Placer County), this growth will have a substantial impact on related enrollment growth for the district. In fact, the official enrollment projections released this month by the Research Unit of the CA Community Colleges Chancellor's Office suggest that in Fall 2010, LRCCD colleges and centers will enroll 87,227 students, up 43.5% over Fall 1998. By Fall 2015, LRCCD is expected to enroll 101,598 students.

Important to successful program and facility planning for the District is an understanding of where population increases will occur. Chart 1 outlines expected population *growth* in communities that are closest to each Los Rios college and major center. As shown in this chart, the area in closest proximity to Cosumnes River College is expected to see the most growth by 2010, followed by the communities in closest proximity to what will be Folsom Lake College by 2010. New population growth is similar for American River College and Sacramento City College, while new population growth in the area surrounding the El Dorado Center is expected to be much more limited. Community level population summaries represent each area. Communities are the official "Regional Analysis Districts" defined by SACOG.

Chart 1
New Population Projected for Communities within the LRCCD Service Area: from 1999 to 2010 and 1999 to 2015



Source:
Sacramento Area Council of Governments, *Population Estimates for Regional Analysis Districts* (1999) and *Population Projections for Regional Analysis Districts.*

Communities in closest proximity to American River College (ARC Area) include: Antelope, Arden Arcade, Carmichael, North Highlands, North Sacramento, Rio Linda-Elverta, North Natomas, South Natomas and, approximately three-fourths of Citrus Heights and two-thirds of Fair Oaks.

Communities in closest proximity to Cosumnes River College (CRC Area) include: Cosumnes, Delta, Elk Grove, Franklin-Laguna, Galt, Southeast County and approximately two-thirds of South Sacramento and of Vineyard, as well.

Communities in closest proximity to the El Dorado Center (EDC Area) include: Coloma-Lotus, Diamond Springs, the El Dorado High Country, Georgetown, Mt. Aukum/Grizzly Flat, Pilot Hill, Pollock Pines and Placerville.

Communities in closest proximity to the Folsom Lake Center (FLC Area) include: Cameron Park/Shingle Springs, El Dorado Hills, Folsom, Orangevale, Rancho Cordova, Rancho Murieta and approximately one-third of Fair Oaks and

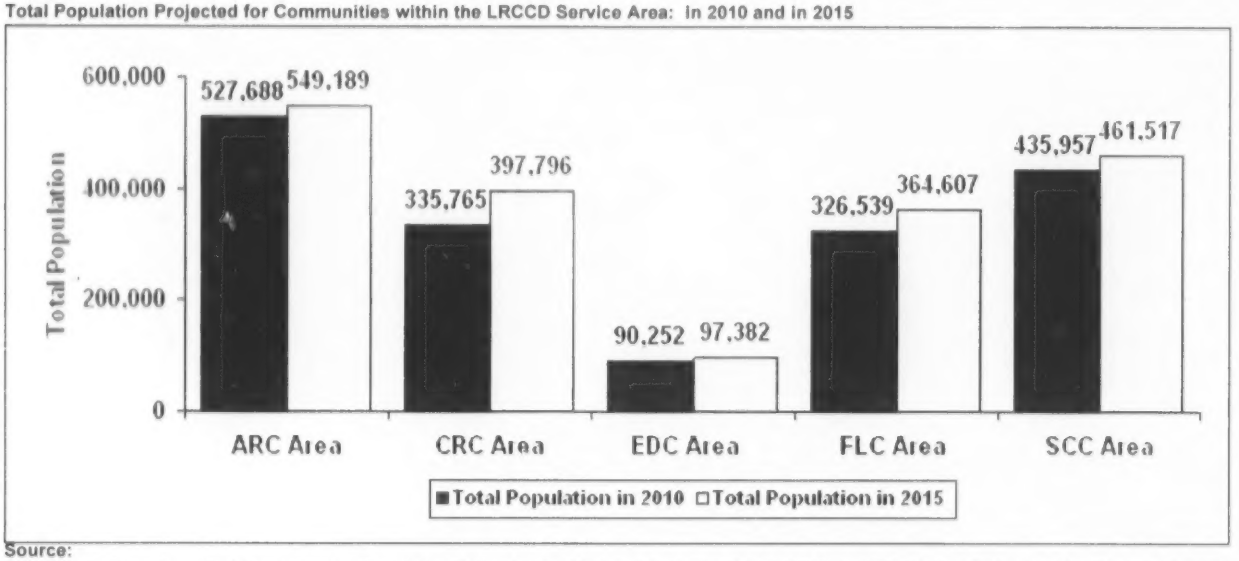
one-fourth of Citrus Heights.

Communities in closest proximity to Sacramento City College (SCC Area) include: Downtown Sacramento, East Sacramento, Land Park/Pocket/Meadowview, Davis, West Sacramento and approximately one-third of South Sacramento and of Vineyard, as well.

It is important to point out, however, that living in homes that are in close proximity to a college or center does not necessarily dictate enrollment at that location. Students select community college locations for many other reasons, such as proximity of a college to the workplace and/or to enroll in a special program of study that is unique to one college. In addition, student attendance patterns can also be dictated because of facility or program limitations of a college that might be more conveniently located near home.

Chart 2 outlines what the *total* population will be in each area, given both existing 1999 population and new growth by 2010 and 2015. Communities in closest proximity to ARC will still be home to the largest population within the District; approximately 30.7% of LRCCD area residents will be living in closest proximity to ARC in 2010 and 29.4% will be in 2015. Proportions of District residents for the other colleges and center will be as follow: 25.4% in 2010 and 24.7% in 2015 will be living in closest proximity to SCC; 19.6% in 2010 and 21.3% in 2015 will be living in closest proximity to CRC; 19.0% in 2010 and 19.5% in 2015 will be living in closest proximity to the Folsom Lake College; and 5.3% in 2010 and 5.2% in 2015 will be living in closest proximity to the El Dorado Center.

Chart 2
Total Population Projected for Communities within the LRCCD Service Area: In 2010 and in 2015



Source:
Sacramento Area Council of Governments, *Population Estimates for Regional Analysis Districts* (1999) and *Population Projections for Regional Analysis Districts*.

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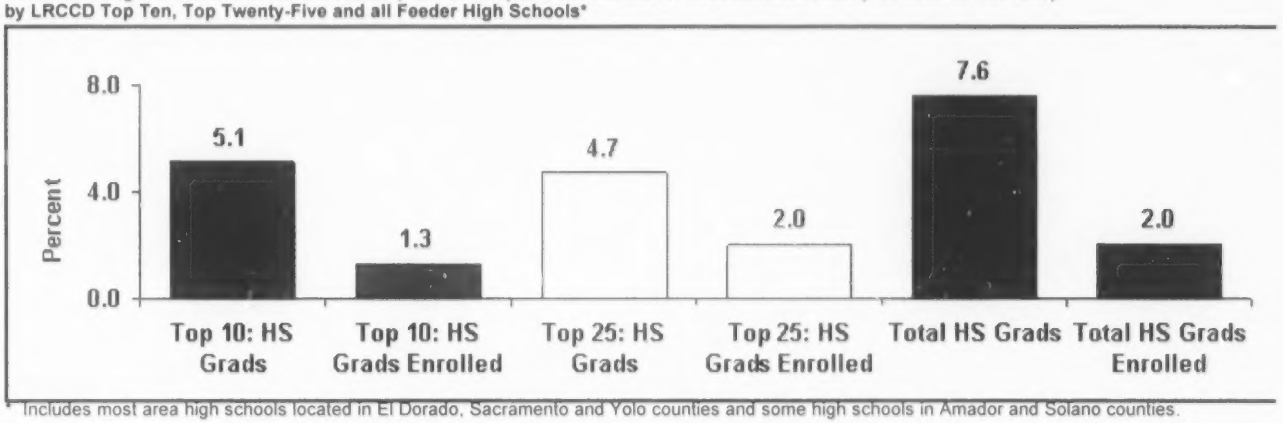
NEW HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES: THE PATH TO LOS RIOS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Los Rios Community Colleges continued to enroll substantial proportions of 1998 high school graduates in its colleges. For nine of the top ten feeder high schools, over a third of the high school graduates enrolled in a Los Rios college. The one exception was Davis, for which 26.4% of the 1998 high school graduates enrolled in Los Rios.

Acknowledging that as a district, Los Rios enrolls substantial proportions of high school graduates from its feeder high schools, the more interesting discussion focuses on the number of high school graduates and the number of graduates enrolled from the top feeder high schools and how the changes in these numbers compare. The total number of high school graduates from Los Rios feeder high schools increased by 7.6%, from 13,507 graduates to 14,538 graduates in 1998. However, the number of those graduates enrolling in Los Rios colleges increased by a smaller 2.0%, from 3,739 in Fall 1997 to 3,813 graduates enrolled in Fall 1998. Chart 1 illustrates the one-year percentage change in the number of high school graduates and the number of those graduates enrolling in LRCCD from 1997 to 1998 for the top ten, the top twenty-five and all Los Rios feeder high schools.

Chart 1
Percent Change in Number of HS Graduates (1997 to1998) and the Number of Graduates Enrolled (Fall 1997 to Fall 1998): by LRCCD Top Ten, Top Twenty-Five and all Feeder High Schools*



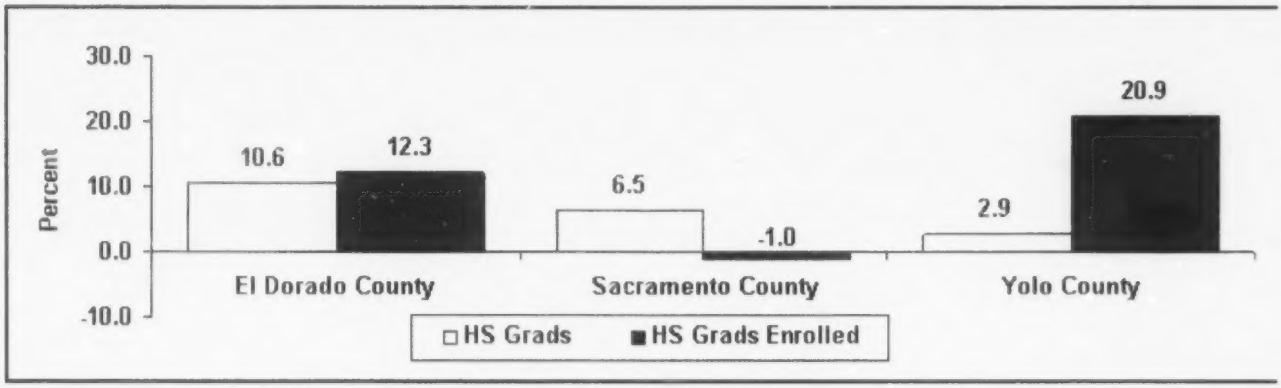
* Includes most area high schools located in El Dorado, Sacramento and Yolo counties and some high schools in Amador and Solano counties.

The number of high school graduates from the top ten feeder high schools increased by 5.1% from 1997 to 1998, however the number of those graduates enrolling in a Los Rios college increased by a smaller 1.3%. Similarly, the number of graduates from the top twenty-five feeder high schools increased by 4.7% while comparable graduates enrolled increased by a lower 2.0%.

Chart 2 presents the annual percentage change in the number of high school graduates and the number of graduates enrolled for each of the counties that comprise the Los Rios service area. Because of its close proximity to LRCCD, graduates from schools within Placer County do enroll in Los Rios colleges (less than 100 of 1998 Placer County graduates enrolled in LRCCD), but Placer County is served primarily by Sierra College and consequently is not included in this analysis.

The chart illustrates that the number of graduates from El Dorado County feeder high schools in 1998 was 10.6% compared to a slightly higher 12.3% of high school graduates enrolled from El Dorado County feeder high schools.

Chart 2
Percent Change in Number of HS Graduates (1997 to 1998) and the Number of Graduates Enrolled (Fall 1997 to Fall 1998): by County



Conversely, the number of Sacramento County feeder high school graduates increased by 6.5% while the number of graduates enrolled in LRCCD declined in Fall 1998 by 1.0%. The number of graduates enrolled in a Los Rios college from Yolo County feeder schools in Fall 1998 increased by a substantial 20.9% compared to a 2.9% increased in the 1998 number of graduates from the Yolo county feeder schools. The increase in graduates enrolled from Yolo County feeder schools is primarily attributed to the increase in the number of graduates enrolled in Los Rios colleges from Davis High School.

This information is meant to be a tool that may help Los Rios staff identify the effectiveness of particular programs or marketing efforts that target the greater Sacramento area high school population. Moreover, this **Research *brief*** as well as the detailed report and data tables provide insights as to where participation rate growth and decline are occurring. Area high schools are also able to analyze the directional shifts in participation rates of their students after high school graduation. This coupled with other data on semester outcomes of their graduates helps them to provide useful information to upcoming graduates and their families.

It is of additional interest to note that American River College (ARC) has far more feeder schools that produce the majority of new high school graduates enrolling there each Fall than is the case for Cosumnes River or Sacramento City College. Whereas slightly more than one-half (54.3%) of new high school graduates enrolled in ARC come from top ten feeder schools, 72.0% of SCC's come from its top ten and an even higher 91.2% of CRC's come from its top ten.

Another difference affecting high school participation rates is the varying size of the feeder schools. High schools in close proximity to ARC are, on average, granting diplomas to fewer graduates than those in close proximity to CRC and SCC. And, ARC is capturing a substantially higher number of those students each Fall. Whereas the average number of 1998 graduates from the top ten feeder schools to ARC is 307, the average numbers are 379 for CRC, 380 for SCC, 381 for Folsom Lake Center and 346 for El Dorado Center's top five schools. Only one high school among ARC's top ten feeder schools has over 400 students. Four high schools have in the case of CRC and five in the case of SCC. Two among the top five Folsom Lake and three high schools among El Dorado's top five feeder schools had over 400 graduates in 1998. Clearly, SCC and CRC (including its affiliated centers) are located in the higher growth areas of greater Sacramento. This suggests that recruitment efforts must be more widespread in area high schools within general proximity to ARC, while those of CRC and SCC can be focused on a smaller number of feeder schools.

Los Rios colleges each have very unique recruitment challenges presented to them in their efforts to meet the educational needs of the diverse high school graduate population it serves. The purpose of this **Research *brief*** and detailed High School Participation Rate report is to serve as a tool for Los Rios staff to use to help them best meet these recruitment challenges and opportunities.

*This **RESEARCH brief** was written by Betty Glyer-Culver, Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Research (IR), LRCCD. It is based on data generated by Minh La, IR Senior Systems Analyst, from the LRCCD Research Database and from data generated from the Demographic Unit of the California State Department of Education Demographic database. For more information, please contact IR Secretary, Chue Lo at (916) 568-3131 or by e-mail to **loc@mail.do.losrios.cc.ca.us**.*

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DISABILITY STUDENTS RECEIVING CAMPUS SUPPORT SERVICES: A DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Disabled students who take advantage of the services provided by the Disabled Student Services Resource Centers at American River College, Cosumnes River College and Sacramento City College make up approximately 3% of students. In Fall 1998 there were 1,692 students who received services from the three centers.

Fall 1998 demographic data shows the following:

- **Gender:**
  58.2% are female
  41.8% are male

- **Ethnicity:**
  13.8% are African American
  6.7% are Asian (includes Filipino & Pacific Islander)
  10.7% are Latino
  3.3% are Native American
  61.3% are Caucasian
  4.2% are of other and unknown ethnic categories

- **Age:**
  0.3% are under 18 years of age
  12.3% are 18-20 years of age
  13.7% are 21-24 years of age
  12.4% are 25-29 years of age
  26.1% are 30-39 years of age
  35.3% are 40 years of age or older

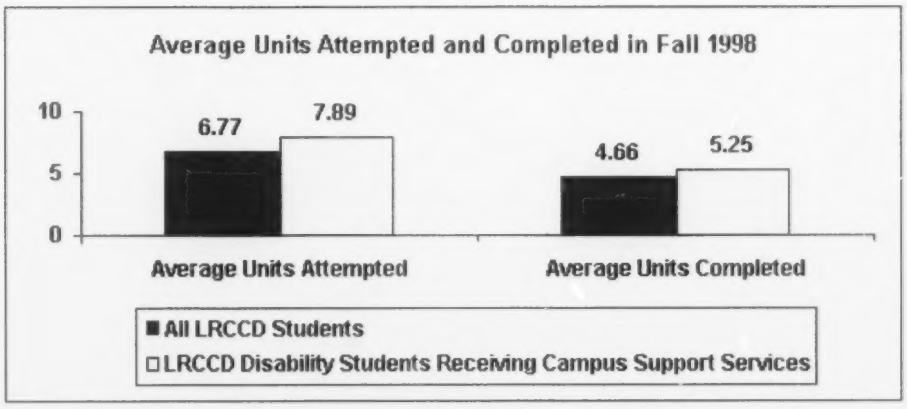
- **Unit Load:**
  34.2% enroll in a light load (up to 5.9 units)
  37.5% enroll in a medium load (6.0 to 11.9 units)
  28.4% enroll in a full-time load (12 units or more)

- **Day/Evening:**
  58.6% attend classes during the day, only
  11.1% attend classes during the evening, only
  30.3% attend classes during both the day and the evening

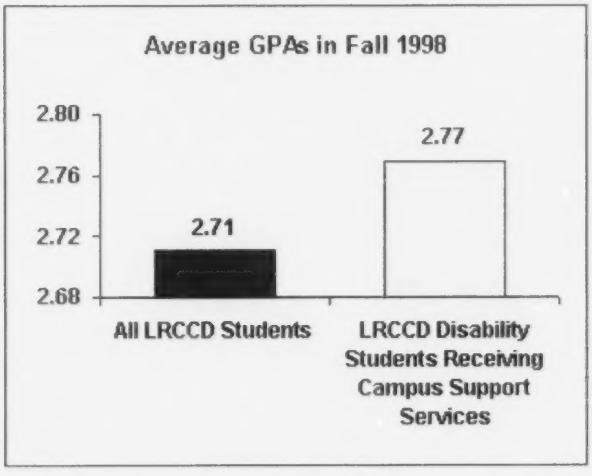
- **Informed Goal:**
  46.6% plan to transfer to a 4-year college or university
  17.7% are undecided on their goal
  12.9% plan to earn a degree
  6.8% plan to earn a certificate
  4.0% are attending college to improve basic skills
  11.9% have other goals

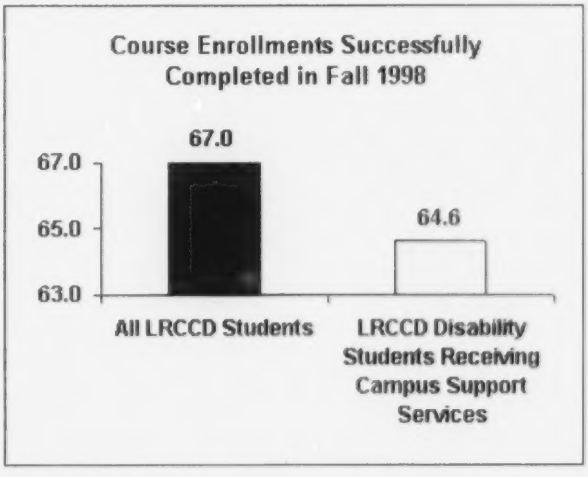
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Disabled students who take advantage of services provided by the Disabled Student Services Resource Centers perform as well as the average student academically. They attempt and complete slightly more units than all students.



Their student outcomes are strong. Although disability students receiving support services had lower course success rates than all students, on the average they attained higher GPAs, maintaining just slightly lower than a B average:





The rate of persistence by these students is also fairly high. Seventy-four percent of the students who received services from the Disabled Student Services Resource Centers at the three Los Rios colleges in the Fall returned in Spring 1999 to continue their programs of study.

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DISTANCE EDUCATION STUDENTS: A DEMOGRAPHIC AND OUTCOMES PROFILE

The number of students taking distance education has grown considerably over the last five-year period. A total 535 students who enrolled in distance education courses in Fall 1995 grew by 312.5% to 2,207 students in Fall 1999. Students enrolling in distance education courses include those taking: Tele-Courses -- pre-recorded television Interactive TV Courses -- courses that are being broadcast live on television while being taught to students on campus; and On-Line Courses -- courses taught through the use of e-mail and a dedicated web site, which is the newest distance education medium, introduced by Los Rios colleges in Fall 1998. Of the 2,207 students who were enrolled in distance education courses, 44.4% took Interactive TV Courses, 43.3% took Tele-Courses and 12.3% took Online Courses. Of interest is the following:

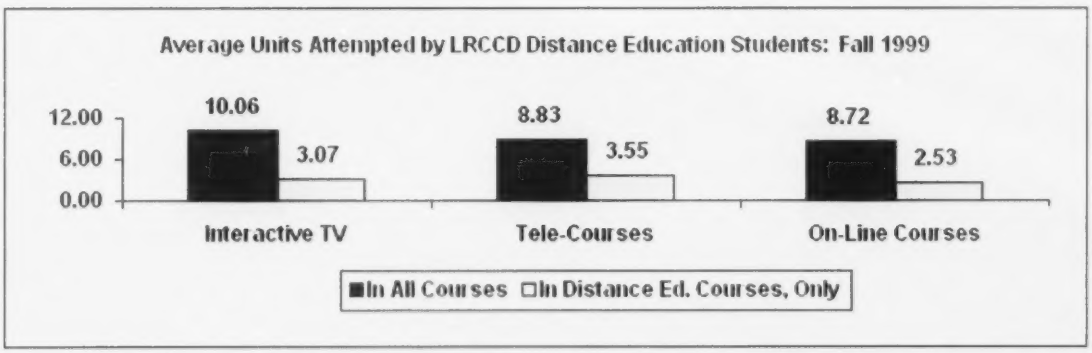
Demographic Profile of LRCCD Distance Education Students: Fall 1999			
Gender	**Interactive TV Courses**	**Tele-Courses**	**Online Courses**
Female	64.4%	67.9%	63.2%
Male	35.6%	32.1%	36.8%
Ethnicity			
African American	12.8%	17.8%	7.7%
Asian	11.7%	10.5%	8.5%
Filipino	3.3%	1.9%	3.7%
Latino	9.7%	11.1%	7.7%
Native American	1.8%	2.7%	1/8%
Pacific Islander	1.8%	1.4%	0.0%
White	56.0%	51.8%	65.4%
Other and Unknown	2.9%	2.9%	5.1%
Age			
Under 18 years	1.1%	0.2%	1.1%
18-20 years	42.8%	17.6%	16.5%
21-24 years	19.1%	20.2%	15.8%
25-29 years	10.1%	18.7%	19.1%
30-39 years	13.1%	24.5%	21.7%
40 and over	13.8%	18.8%	25.7%
Employment			
None	20.6%	15.5%	17.3%
Less than half-time	17.6%	11.5%	19.2%
Half-time (20 to under 40 hours)	42.6%	33.2%	31.8%

Full-time (40 or more hours)	19.2%	39.8%	31.8%
Single Parents	9.8%	15.0%	13.6%
Disabled	3.3%	3.5%	5.5%
Living in households > 2	65.2%	49.2%	46.0%
Goal is to transfer	61.3%	58.2%	56.3%
Continuing students*	51.4%	61.0%	66.5%

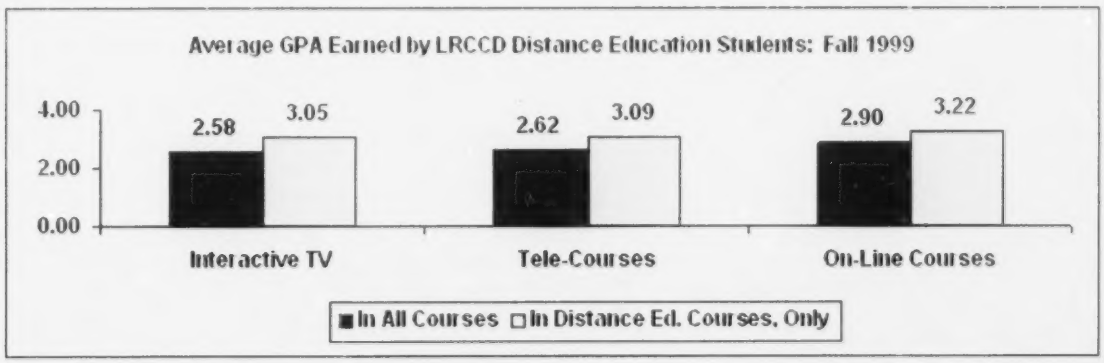
Technical Note:
* Students who were enrolled at a Los Rios college the previous semester. There were less than 10% of all students across each type of distance education for all other enrollment status categories with two exceptions: 23.2% of the students in Interactive TV courses were new students who never before enrolled in any college and 11.5% of the Tele-Course students were returning to their college after an absence (without enrolling in any other college in the interim).

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

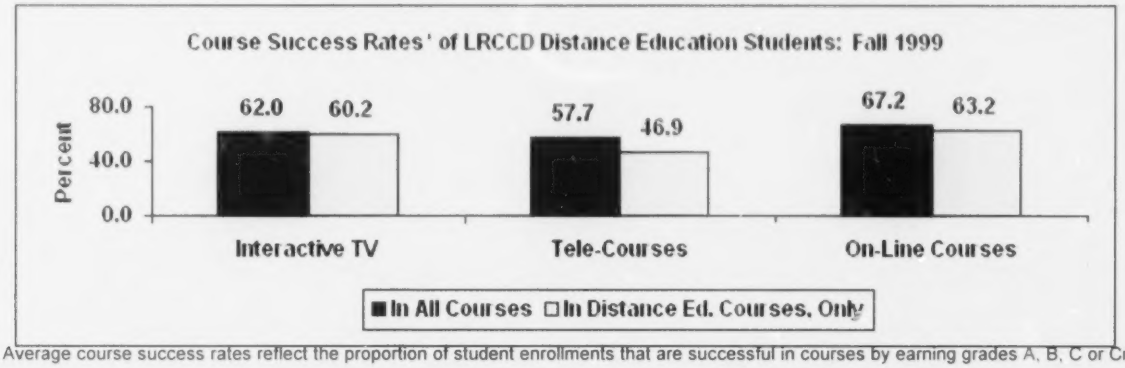
Many distance education students are taking other courses at the same time that they are enrolled in their distance education course. Analysis shows that only 19.5% of Interactive TV, 11.2% of Tele-Course and 18.4% of On-line course students took only their distance education course. The following chart displays the average units that distance education students took in the Fall 1999 semester and the average these same students took in distance education courses, exclusively.



On average, distance education students achieved higher grades in their distance education courses than in all of their courses. It is important to point out, however, that this does not necessarily suggest that the medium itself was responsible for the higher average grades; students may select distance education courses that are of special interest or that match an aptitude they might have for a selected subject. Nonetheless, it can be noted that, on average, the distance education media do not adversely impact grades.



However, course enrollments successfully completed by these students in their distance education courses are slightly lower for the Interactive TV Course and On-Line Course students but almost 11% lower for Tele-Course students than those they achieved in all their courses. Exactly 32.2% of the enrollments by Tele-Course students in their distance education courses ended in withdrawals that are noted on student transcripts. This compares to 23.6% for On-Line 19.6% for Interactive TV course students in their distance education courses.



* Average course success rates reflect the proportion of student enrollments that are successful in courses by earning grades A, B, C or Credit.

*This **RESEARCH brief** was written by Judy Beachler, Director of Institutional Research (IR), LRCCD. It is based on data generated from the LRCCD Research Database, developed and managed by Minh La, IR Senior Systems Analyst. For more information, please contact IR Secretary, Chue Lo at (916) 568-3131 or by e-mail to **loc@mail.do.losrios.cc.ca.us**.*

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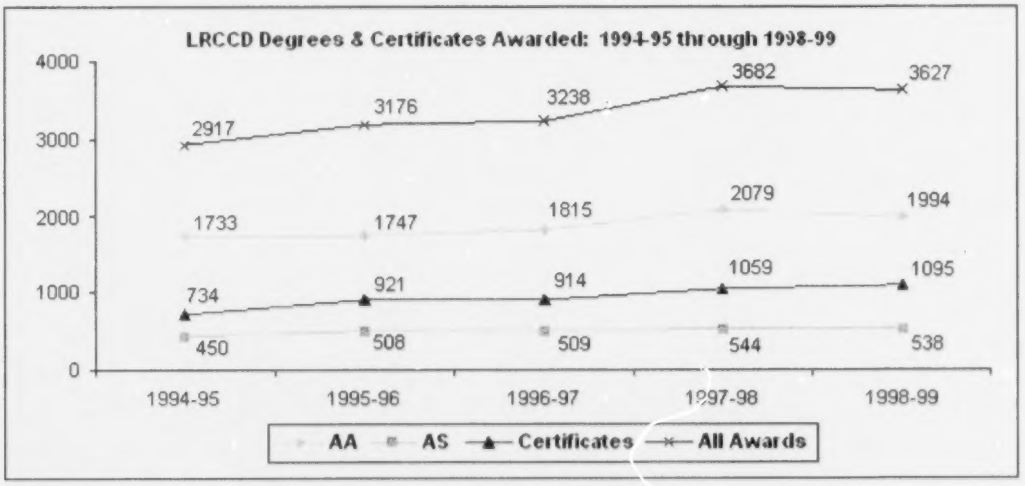
DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED TO LRCCD STUDENTS: THE 1998-99 ACADEMIC YEAR PROFILE

The following chart profiles the number of degree and certificate awards over the most recent five-year period.



The following table shows that across the district, female and white students earn degrees in large numbers; in most cases (by college and district-wide) more than half of all award recipients are female and half or more are Caucasian. Larger proportions of Asian students receive awards than is the case for all other ethnic minority groups, particularly at SCC where Asian students earned 23.8% of awards.

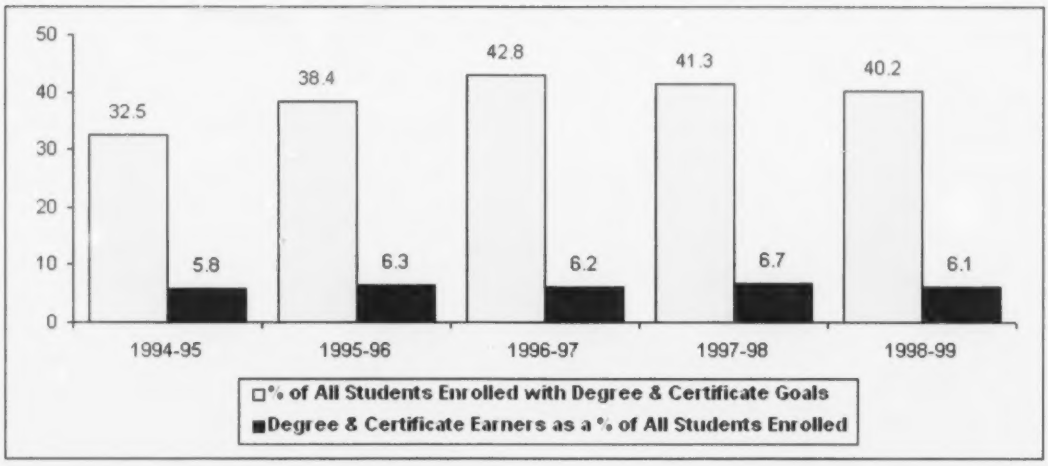
Demographic Profile of Award Recipients by College: 1998-				
By Type of Award	**ARC**	**CRC**	**SCC**	**LRCCD**
Associate of Arts	54.0%	55.2%	56.2%	55.0%
Associate of Science	17.5%	4.0%	23.8%	14.8%
Certificate	28.5%	40.9%	20.0%	30.2%
All Awards by Gender				
Female	66.1%	53.0%	62.5%	60.8%
Male	33.9%	47.0%	37.5%	39.2%
All Awards by Ethnicity				
African American	7.7%	8.8%	11.6%	9.1%
Asian	11.4%	14.9%	23.8%	16.0%
Filipino	2.0%	3.0%	2.9%	2.6%
Latino	7.5%	9.4%	11.5%	9.2%
Native American	1.1%	2.9%	0.6%	1.5%
Pacific Islander	0.3%	1.1%	1.1%	0.8%

White	66.7%	57.0%	45.8%	57.7%
Other and Unknown	3.2%	3.0%	2.8%	3.0%

These data show that total awards granted have increased over the five-year period, but declined annually in 1998-99. A detailed breakout of these changes follows.

Change in the Number of Degree and Certificate Awards		
By Total Degrees and Certificates	**% Change 1994-95 to 1998-**	**Annual % Change 1997-98 to 1998-**
American River College	13.3%	-0.1%
Cosumnes River College	80.2%	8.4%
Sacramento City College	1.5%	-12.6%
Los Rios Community College District	24.3%	-1.5%
By Associate of Arts Degrees Awarded		
American River College	7.2%	-0.4%
Cosumnes River College	75.5%	0.6%
Sacramento City College	-11.3%	-13.2%
Los Rios Community College District	15.1%	-4.1%
By Associate of Science Degrees Awarded		
American River College	3.3%	-7.0%
Cosumnes River College	74.1%	104.3%
Sacramento City College	33.3%	-4.4%
Los Rios Community College District	19.6%	-1.1%
By Certificates Awarded		
American River College	35.9%	5.4%
Cosumnes River College	87.6%	15.2%
Sacramento City College	15.4%	-19.5%
Los Rios Community College District	49.2%	3.4%

Although enrollment data include students not yet eligible to earn degrees or certificates and are not directly comparable to awards data, they do provide us with a relative means of comparison. Although a fairly high proportion of students at Los Rios colleges state that their goal is to earn a degree or certificate each Fall, the proportions actually earning them each year is relatively small. Moreover, there has been little change in the proportion of all students earning awards over time.



*This **RESEARCH brief** was written by Betty Glyer-Culver, Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Research (IR), LRCCD. It is based on data generated from the LRCCD Research Database, developed and managed by Minh La, IR Senior Systems Analyst. For more information, please contact IR Secretary, Chue Lo at 916-568-3131 or by e-mail to **loc@mail.do.losrios.cc.ca.us**.*

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STUDENT-RIGHT-TO-KNOW PROGRAM COMPLETION

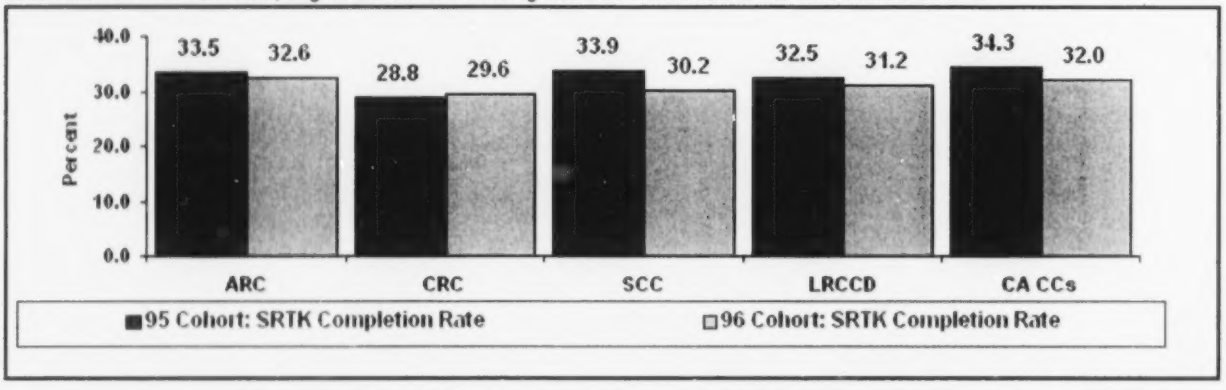
In compliance with the federal Student Right-to-Know (SRTK) and Campus Security Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-542), it is the policy of the Los Rios Community College District to make available the following information about program completion by first-time full-time students on an annual basis. As such, this is the second in a series of **RESEARCH *briefs*** that provides the official SRTK completion and transfer out rates for first-time full-time students who were first enrolled in Fall 1996 with goals to earn degrees, certificates or to transfer to a four-year institution of higher education. SRTK Program Completion is defined as earning a degree, certificate or 56 university-level transfer units with a GPA 2.0 or higher within three years.

Representing 3.9% of all Fall 1996 students district-wide, these rates exclude students with SRTK goals who are continuing students. Also excluded are students who attended Los Rios colleges to upgrade job skills, gain new job skills, improve basic skills, maintain licenses, complete credits for high school and to formulate career interests, as well as those who attended for intellectual/cultural improvement.

Official SRTK Completion Rates of Full-Time Students: Fall 1995 and Fall 1996 Cohorts

When compared to the official SRTK Completion Rates of the Fall 1995 Cohort, completion rates for the 1996 entering cohort are slightly lower for ARC (by 0.9%) and lower for SCC (by 3.7%), as well. They are slightly higher for CRC (by 0.8%). On a statewide basis, 2.3% fewer students of the 1996 Cohort completed their programs of study compared to the proportion of the 1995 Cohort.

Official Student Right-to-Know Completion Rates –
First-Time Full-Time Certificate, Degree and Transfer-Seeking Students: Fall 1995 and Fall 1996 Student Cohorts



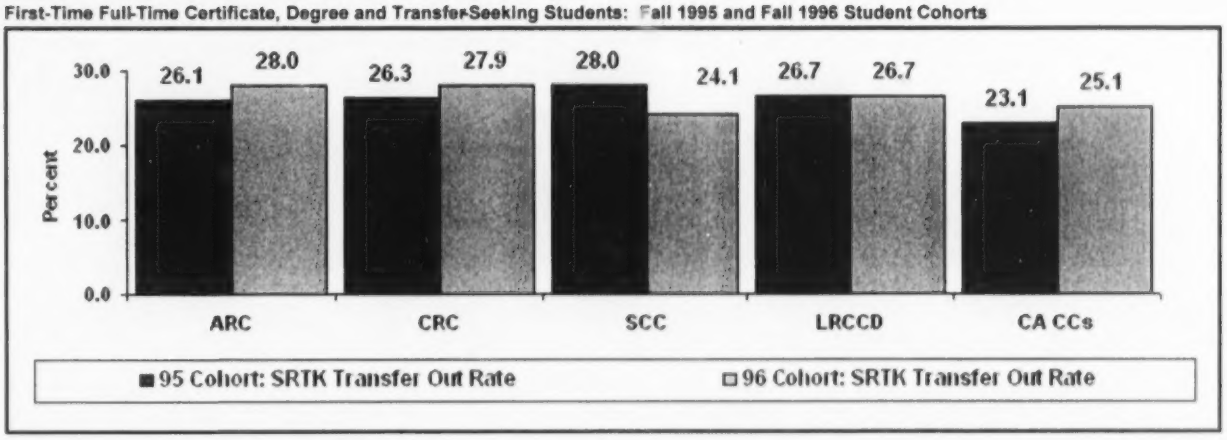
Official SRTK Transfer Out Rates of Full-Time Students: Fall 1995 and Fall 1996 Cohorts

Official transfer out rates for the Fall 1996 Cohort, however, increased over those for the Fall 1995 Cohort for all Los Rios colleges except Sacramento City College. The official SRTK transfer out rates include only those students who transfer out prior to program completion (defined as earning certificates, degrees or 56 transferable units with a 2.0 or higher GPA).

The increase in transfer out rates may be partially due to the fact that transfer matches were obtained only from the CSU and UC systems for the official Fall 1995 Cohort. Data for the Fall 1996 Cohort were also matched to the National Student Loan Clearinghouse (NSLC) database. This allowed the State Chancellor's Office to provide more comprehensive transfer information which includes not only UC and CSU transfer data but transfer data for all California private colleges and universities, as well as all private and public colleges and universities across the U.S. that are NSLC members. NSLC officials expect 83% of all enrollments in the U.S. to be reported to the Clearinghouse by the end of the current academic year. These matches have provided for a much more comprehensive transfer picture.

Official Student Right-to-Know Transfer Out Rates –

First-Time Full-Time Certificate, Degree and Transfer-Seeking Students: Fall 1995 and Fall 1996 Student Cohorts



Rate of Change in the Number of Students in the 1996 First-Time Student Cohort

In the case of all Los Rios colleges, the total number of students in the 1996 Cohort, the number from this cohort who completed their programs and the number who transferred out increased over the comparable numbers in the 1995 Cohort. In the case of CRC the cohort increased very little (by 7.4%), while the number of completers increased slightly more (by 10.3%). It is for this reason that CRC's 1996 Cohort's official SRTK completion rate increased slightly over its 1995 counterpart. In all other cases (for ARC, SCC and all CA community colleges) the growth of the full student cohort was larger than the growth of the completers when comparing the 1996 Cohort to the 1995 Cohort.

The number of students who transfer out prior to program completion increased at a much higher rate for the 1996 Student Cohort of ARC than the other Los Rios colleges. Students transferring out go to either: another community college (which could be another Los Rios college); a public university in California; a private in-state or out-of-state institution of higher education or a public out-of-state institution of higher education (data available only for members of the National Student Loan Clearinghouse). The following table details the changes in the official SRTK Cohort in 1996 cohort over its 1995 counterparts.

First-Time Full-Time Students with Goals to Complete a Certificate, a Degree or Transfer: Fall 1995 and Fall 1996

	1995 Cohort*	1996 Cohort*	1-Year Change	Completers[1]: 1995 Cohort	Completers[1]: 1996 Cohort	1-Year Change	Transfer Out: 1995 Cohort	Transfer Out: 1996 Cohort	1-Year Change
ARC	773	969	25.4%	259	316	22.0%	202	271	34.2%
CRC	403	433	7.4%	116	128	10.3%	106	121	14.2%
SCC	504	663	31.5%	171	200	17.0%	141	160	13.5%
LRCCD	1,680	2,065	22.9%	546	644	17.9%	449	552	22.9%
CA CCs	36,461	39,741	9.0%	12,506	12,722	1.7%	8,417	9,968	18.4%

Technical Notes:
The 1995 Cohort data, as reported to IPEDS were matched against the UC and CSU System files for transfer out information. The Fall 1996 cohort data were matched against the UC, CSU and NSLC system files, capturing instate transfer data not only to the CA university systems but also to all instate private colleges and universities and to all out-of-state institutions that are also members of NSLC.

* This reflects the adjusted cohort; exclusions have been subtracted out. In the case of CA community colleges, exclusions includes all students who have left school to serve in the armed forces.

[1] Completers are those students in the cohort who earn a certificate, a degree or 56 transferable units with a 2.0 or higher GPA within three years.

As was the case with the 1995 Cohort, many students in the 1996 Cohort drop to part-time status to work toward the completion of their studies over a longer period of time. SRTK allows only three years from program start to finish. A more complete analysis detailing the proportions of students still enrolled as well as those who left in good academic standing will be provided this summer in the Environmental Scan Report Card 2000.

*This **RESEARCH brief** was written by Judy Beachler, Director of Institutional Research. Sources of data for this **brief** are the official IPEDS GRS-2 surveys submitted in March 2000 to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) by the Management Information Services (MIS) Division of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office on behalf of all CA community colleges. For more information, please contact IR Secretary, Chue Lo at (916) 568-3131 or by e-mail to **loc@mail.do.losrios.cc.ca.us**.*

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TRANSFER RATES: THE FULLER TRANSFER PICTURE

The Management Information System (MIS) Division of the California Community College's Chancellor's Office (CO) has entered into agreement with the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) systems, as well as with the National Student Loan Clearinghouse (NSLC), to obtain comprehensive transfer out information for the purpose of Student Right-to-Know (SRTK) reporting.

However, transfer out data reported to meet Student Right-to-Know requirements includes counts only for those students who transfer out to any other institution of higher education (including other community colleges) before completing their programs of study. As such, it does not provide a true picture of student transfer. Likewise, data reported to the CA Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) provides full-year data on *all* students who transfer to the CSU and UC systems (only) in a given year, regardless of when they started their community college program of study. Since the CPEC data are not based upon a specific cohort, transfer rates cannot be calculated.

Rather than limiting SRTK matching to First-Time Students with goals to earn certificates, degrees or to transfer to meet SRTK reporting requirements, MIS staff creates a file that includes *all* First-Time Students, regardless of goal. This file is sent to UC, CSU and NSLC for matching, in order to provide a more comprehensive picture of student transfer back to districts and their colleges. It has not been until the MIS Division of the CO matched files with CSU, UC and NSLC that comprehensive transfer rates could be calculated. The tables below profile the most complete transfer picture possible, based on the data matches by MIS. They provide a summary of transfer rates for Los Rios colleges for the 1993 Cohort which was matched in Spring 1999, giving a transfer picture for Los Rios colleges at four and six years out, from start of program.

The Fuller Transfer Picture

Providing the transfer picture *four years* out, Table 1 shows that when transfer rates are calculated for *all* first-time students, they are slightly higher for American River and Sacramento City colleges than the statewide transfer rate; the transfer rate for Cosumnes River College is the same as the statewide rate.

Transfers to the UC and the CSU account for the majority of the transfer students from Los Rios colleges and statewide. A very small proportion of all students who transferred within four years transferred to four-year institutions other than the CSU and UC: only 2.0% from ARC and CRC; 1.8% from SCC and 1.6% from all CA community colleges.

Table 1 also shows that for students with long-term goals (degree, certificate or transfer goals), all Los Rios colleges achieve transfer rates that are higher than the state's 17.5% to *all* four-year colleges and universities, as well as the state's 15.3% transfer rate to the UC and CSU systems, only.

Table 1
Transfer Rates of Students Beginning Their Studies in Fall 1993, Allowing *Four* Years to Transfer (by Spring 1997)

All First-Time Students*	**ARC**	**CRC**	**SCC**	**CA CCs**
To All Four-Year Colleges/Universities	13.3%	11.7%	12.7%	11.7%
To UC and CSU Systems' Universities, Only	11.3%	9.7%	10.9%	10.1%
First-Time Degree, Certificate & Transfer Seeking Students*				
To All Four-Year Colleges/Universities	18.9%	18.3%	18.6%	17.5%
To UC and CSU Systems' Universities, Only	16.4%	15.6%	15.6%	15.3%

Technical Note:
* Both full-time and part-time students.

Cohort data were matched against the UC, CSU and NSLC system files, capturing in-state transfer data not only to the CA university systems but also to all in-state private colleges and universities and to all out-of-state institutions that are also members of NSLC.

Providing the transfer picture for students beginning their studies in either the fall *or* the spring semester of the 1993-Academic Year, Table 2 provides a snapshot of transfer rates *six years* out. In all cases, first-time students from Los Rios colleges attain transfer rates that are slightly higher than the statewide rate as well as the rate of transfer to UC and CSU, only. Transfer to in-state private and out-of-state private and public four-year colleges/universities make up approximately 3% of the transfer rate for Los Rios colleges and 2.5% of the statewide transfer rate.

Looking at students whose goal is specific to transfer, only, provides a very informative picture of student transfer. Within six years of the start of their community college program, approximately 25% of the students who have a community college goal to transfer actually do transfer to a four-year college/university from ARC, CRC and colleges statewide; slightly fewer students transfer from SCC (22.3%).

Again, the major contribution to the transfer picture is from students transferring to the UC and CSU systems. Approximately 4% of ARC's, SCC's and of the state community college system's transfer rate for students whose goal it is to transfer can be attributed to colleges/universities other the CSU and UC systems. This figure is slightly higher for CRC, at approximately 4.6%.

Table 2
Transfer Rates of 1993-94 Academic Year Students, Allowing Six Years to Transfer (by Spring 1999)

All First-Time Students*	**ARC**	**CRC**	**SCC**	**CA CCs**
To All Four-Year Colleges/Universities	15.5%	15.4%	16.6%	14.5%
To UC and CSU Systems' Universities, Only	12.8%	12.3%	13.6%	12.0%
To CA Four-Year Private Colleges/Universities, Only	0.7%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%
To Out-of-State Four-Year Public Colleges/Universities, Only	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.8%
To Out-of-State Four-Year Private Colleges/Universities, Only	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	0.6%
All First-Time Transfer Seeking Students*				
To All Four-Year Colleges/Universities	25.5%	25.4%	22.5%	25.3%
To UC and CSU Systems' Universities, Only	21.6%	20.8%	18.3%	21.5%
To CA Four-Year Private Colleges/Universities, Only	0.9%	1.4%	1.3%	1.6%
To Out-of-State Four-Year Public Colleges/Universities, Only	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%	1.3%
To Out-of-State Four-Year Private Colleges/Universities, Only	1.4%	1.7%	1.3%	0.9%

Technical Notes:
* Both full-time and part-time students.
Cohort data were matched against the UC, CSU and NSLC system files, capturing in-state transfer data not only to the CA university systems but also to all in-state private colleges and universities and to all outof-state institutions that are also members of NSLC.
Percents by sector do not always add up to totals for All Four-Year Colleges/Universities due to rounding.

*This **RESEARCH brief** was written by Judy Beachler, Director of Institutional Research. Data are from a paper written by Patrick Perry, Interim Dean of the MIS Division of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office that was presented April 28, 2000 at the 38th Annual Research and Planning Group Conference for California Community Colleges providing data for all CA community colleges. IR staff gratefully acknowledge the work of staff in the MIS that allows for comprehensive analysis of student transfer from California community colleges. For more information, please contact IR Secretary, Chue Lo at (916) 568-3131 or by e-mail to **loc@mail.do.losrios.cc.ca.us**.*

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